

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-10 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6448

UNCLAS BEIRUT 12161

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: BEIRUT PRESS REPORT OF REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO
U.S. AMBASSADOR IN KUWAIT

1. FOLLOWING FYI IS TEXT OF STORY CARRIED TODAY IN LEADING
INDEPENDENT AN-NAHAR UNDER KUWAIT DATELINE AND ATTRIBUTED
TO "AFP/AP". A VERSION WAS ALSO BROADCAST TODAY BY BEIRUT
RADIO:

2. "KUWAIT ACTING FOMIN SHEKH SALEM SABAH AS SALEM
SAID YESTERDAY HIS GGVERNMENT WAS OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED
THAT THE U.S.GVT HAS DECIDED NOT TO SUPPLY ISRAEL WITH
INTERMEDIATE
RNGE PERSHING ROCKETS CAPABLE OF CARRYING
NUCLEAR WARHEADS. SHEKH SALEM ANNOUNCED THIS AFTER HE
HAD RECEIVED THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN KUWAIT FOR ONE
HOUR. HE ADDED THAT THE AMBASSADOR CONVEYED TO HIM THE
DECISION OF HIS GOVERNMENT TO REFUSE TO SELL SUCH ROCKETS
AND, HE SAID, I SHALL CONVEY THIS DECISION TO CROWN
PRINCE SHEKH JABER AL-AHMAD.

3. "THE KUWAITI GOVERNMENT LAST WEEK EXPRESSED ITS CONCERN
OVER THE SUPPLY TO ISRAEL OF SUCH ROCKETS, WHICH WOUL
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ENABLE ISRAEL TO STRIKE A LARGE NUMBER OF ARAB CAPITALS.

4. "IN NEW YORK, NEWSWEEE MAGAZINE SAID YESTERDAY IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE U.S. WILL EXCLUDE PERSHING ROCKETS FROM THE ARMS DEAL WITH ISRAEL. IT ADDED THAT SOURCES HAVE HINTED THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT MIGHT NOT SUPPLY ISRAEL WITH THESE ROCKETS IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING OPPOSITION IN CONGRESS AND IN THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT TO THE DEAL. IT QUOTED AN UNNAMED OFFICIAL AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT AS SAYING THAT THE PERSHING ROCKETS OFFER WILL REMIAN PENDING IN PRINCIPLE BUT THERE IS STRONG OPPOSITION ON THE PART OF CONGRESS AND THE DBQENSE DEPARTMENT.

5. "ON THE OTHER HAND, TIME MAGAZINE PUBLISHED AN INTERVIEW WITH ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER PERES SAYING HIS COUNTRY WANTS TO OBTAIN PERSHING ROCKETS IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A BALANCE OF ROCKETS IN THE MIDEAST WHICH WOULD AVERT THE OUTBREAK OF A NEW ARMED STRUGGLE. HE SAID HE CONSIDERS THE PERSHING ROCKET ONE OF THE BASIC FACTOR IN 'A POLICY OF PERSUASION ADOPTED BY ISRAEL TOWARD THE ARAB STATES.' HE EMPHASIZED THAT HIS COUNTRY 'WILL NOT BE THE INITIATOR IN INTRODUCING NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE MIDEAST BECAUSE OUR RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY WEAPON AND I WOULD LIKE TO SAY FRANKLY THAT WE DO NOT WANT TO HARM THIS RELATIONSHIP THROUGH INTRODUCING THIS TYPE OF WEAPON TO THE AREA.'"

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